

obtained, since all requirements have already been satisfied, the seating-order determiner 71 finished the processing. When the attention-destination number is not A0, in other words, when it is determined in step S53 that YES is obtained, the processing proceeds to step S54 to satisfy the second requirement.

In the process of step S54, the seating-order determiner 71 determines whether the "whether registration has been made to group table" cell in the attention-destination entry is "O."

When the "registration" is "x" in the attention-destination entry, in other words, it is determined in step S54 that NO is obtained, since it is sure that the attention-destination entry has not been registered to the group table, the processing proceeds to step S58, and the seating-order determiner 71 registers the attention destination to the group (self group) to which the self belongs, and sets the "whether registration has been made to group table" cell in the attention-destination entry in the attention-destination table to "O." Since the second requirement is surely satisfied with the process of step S58, the seating-order determiner 71 finishes the processing.

When it is determined in step S54 that the "registration" is "O" in the attention-destination entry, which means that the attention destination has already been

registered, only the last item of the second requirement needs to be satisfied, which indicates that the individual number Hi and the attention destination belong to the same group. When it is determined in step S54 that YES is obtained, the seating-order determiner 71 refers to the group table in the next step S55 and checks whether the individual number Hi and the attention destination belong to the same group in step S56.

When it is confirmed in step S56 that they belong to the same group, in other words, when it is determined in step S56 that YES is obtained, since the second requirement has already been satisfied, the seating-order determiner 71 finishes the processing.

When it is determined in step S56 that NO is obtained, since the individual number Hi and the attention destination need to belong to the same group, the seating-order determiner 71 merges the two groups to which the individual number Hi and the attention destination belong in the process of step S57. More specifically, the seating-order determiner 71 merges (adds the number of members in the group having a larger number to that in the group having a smaller number, adds the members of the group having the larger number to those of the group having the smaller number, sets the number of members in the group having the larger number to zero, and sets the members of the group

having the larger number to null) the group having a larger number into the group having a smaller number among the two groups. As a result, the second requirement is satisfied. Since all the requirements have been satisfied, the seating-order determiner 71 finishes the processing.

The confirmation of the requirements related to the settings of the entry of the conference participant HMi in the attention-destination table has been finished.

When the entry corresponding to the individual number Hi has been set in the attention-destination table, it is necessary that both the entry corresponding to the individual number Hi and those corresponding to the individual numbers up to Hi-1 be set in the attention-destination table. As for the setting of the entry corresponding to the individual number H1, since the other entries have not yet set so far, it is required that only the entry corresponding to the individual number H1 be set.

Operations which may be performed when the entry corresponding to the individual number Hi is input include a new registration to the group table, the merger of two groups in the group table, and a change in the "whether registration has been made to group table" cell in the attention-destination table to "O." With these operations, neither numbers registered according to the entries corresponding to individual numbers up to Hi-1, followed by